



MAY 2016

## ANSWERING THE DOOR SAFELY

It's late at night. You're in bed and the doorbell rings. Your heart starts racing. You ask yourself, who could be at the door? You throw your slippers on, go downstairs, and open the door to a stranger. What is wrong with this picture?

You're at home doing laundry. You hear a knock at the door. You wonder who is there. As you walk upstairs to check, your children have already opened the door and invited the stranger inside. What is wrong with this picture?

You're at home reading the newspaper. You hear the doorbell ring. You answer the door to a friendly salesperson. When you tell the salesperson that you aren't interested in their product, they become very pushy to get inside and show you how their product works. They won't take no for an answer. They don't have a company uniform on and you can't see a company car. What's wrong with this picture?

Unfortunately, several things are wrong with each of these scenarios. Let's look at each one individually.

In the first case, while answering the door seems to be common place, proper precautions need to be taken to ensure your safety. If it is late enough at night that you are in bed, and someone unexpected is at your door red flags should be popping up all over the place. Make sure that you always look through a window or peephole before answering the door. If it is someone you are unfamiliar with, be hesitant to open the door at all. Yell through the door and demand an answer as to why they are there. An open door is an easy target for access inside. If they answer back that they are in trouble and need help, tell them that you will dial 911 for them and that the Police are on their way.

In the second case, the children haven't been schooled in safety when opening the door. Children need to be taught to look who is at the door before answering it. If it is a stranger, they need to consult an adult before the door gets opened. An open door invites people to see what is inside. It's never a good idea to let a stranger see the layout of your home or what property is kept in it. You have no idea what their intentions are.

Finally, we've all had salespersons come to our home. Some are legitimate and some are not. How can you tell? Ask to see their business license. In Sandy City, a salesperson must have a Sandy City issued business license to sell door to door. It is your right to ask to see this before speaking with them. Furthermore, as good business practice, salespersons should have some type of company identification, a company uniform, or a company car. Ask to see these things and look at them fully. If they do not have these things with them, you need to be questioning why they are at your door. In these cases, feel free to contact the Police to report suspicious activity taking place in the neighborhood. We would be more than happy to come to the area to question the salespersons intentions. If they are legitimate then no harm done. But, if they shouldn't be there, you may have stopped a crime from occurring. Remember, they are on your property. If you ask them to leave and they refuse they are breaking the law.

To sum up, be careful whom you answer the door to. It's hard to know a strangers intention. Look through a window or peephole before answering the door and teach your children to do the same thing. If a salesperson or other official person is at your door, ask to see their identification and look at it very closely. Your safety is what counts.

## STATISTICS

### April 2016

Sandy City Offenses	Alta	Bell	Crescent	Sandy	Total
Assault	9	10	17	39	75
Burglary	4	1	5	7	17
Controlled Substances	12	1	11	41	65
Damaged Property	38	6	10	27	81
Embezzlement			2		2
Family Offenses	3	6	3	16	28
Fish and Game	1		1	2	4
Flight or Escape	4		5	8	17
Forgery				5	5
Fraudulent	6	3	33	23	65
Health or Safety				1	1
Liquor Law			1	1	2
Obstructing Justice			1	1	2
Obstructing Police	1		4	2	7
Privacy Violations	3	1	8	10	22
Public Order	17	8	18	53	96
Public Peace	19	7	19	36	81
Robbery			1	3	4
Sex Offenses	5	1	2	7	15
Stolen Property	1		1	1	3
Stolen Vehicles	4		3	17	24
Theft	25	5	73	67	170
Traffic Offenses	22	6	46	125	199
Weapons Offenses				2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>987</b>

**Alta** - 1300 East to the east border, north border to the gully; **Bell** - 1300 E to the east border, the gully to the south border; **Crescent** - west border to 1300 East, the gully to the south border; **Sandy** - west border to 1300 E, north border to the gully.



**JUST A REMINDER...**

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!**

**REPORT CRIME AND SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY BY DIALING 9-1-1 FOR EMERGENCIES  
AND 801-799-3000 X 7 FOR NON-EMERGENCIES**

**WE NEED YOU HELP TO BE OUR EYES AND OUR EARS IN THE COMMUNITY!**